

BP DESIGN PERFIN ON 1957 SCOUT STAMPS

I, Editor, decided to include this information from IAN BURNS after the "News from Auctions" because the stamps mentioned are again on sale.

Letter from IAN BURNS dated 11-9-95:

"I see from the September edition of "British Philatelic Bulletin", that the BP perfin on the Scout stamps has appeared again. They are being advertised by AVON STAMPS on Pg.28 of the magazine. They do however, put a question mark after the 'BP'

Bulletin No. 279 (Dec '95) Pg. 14.

I refer to Bulletin 263 Pg.10-11 and can confirm that I also have been told that these perfins have nothing whatsoever to do with the Boy Scout movement.

"I am intending to write to both Avon Stamps and the editor of the "British Philatelic Bulletin" regarding this matter. I should not like to see any collector being caught by what appear to be bogus perfins."

Letter from IAN BURNS dated 20-9-95.

"Further to my letter of 11th Sept. I have had replies from both John Holman of the 'Philatelic Bulletin' and Avon Stamps. Mr. Holman says that he will publish my letter in the November issue of the said Bulletin. However, the letter from Avon Stamps is rather disquieting, and I quote:-

"Thank you for your letter 11-9-95 reed today. We ourselves have already conducted research on these via the specialist 'Scouts' Society. No-one has yet been able to throw any light upon these - but as the perfin BP + scroll insignia has appeared on a Scout issue of commemoratives it does not seem unreasonable to presume that there is a connection - which we have not been able to make yet (Prove or disprove)."

"The signature is indecipherable, but Avon Stamps appear to be part of Omniphil, P.O. Box 23, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 6SQ. Their response I find rather disturbing as I would think that, normally in the philatelic world, one would not assume anything but wait until it was conclusively proven. Surely it is up to the company to prove their claim and not make the statement - 'Prove or disprove'. They are obviously not going to take the word of the Perfin Society on the matter as it would certainly hit at their prospective sales (and presumably their profits!!)."

Ian hopes that a mention in our magazine may alert members to the possibility of these 'perfins' not being genuine.

My initial reaction was to ask why such distinctive perfins did not surface from a 1957 issue of stamps until the 1990's? I think I am correct in saying they have only been 'discovered' in the last few years.

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